(d) whether the Centre would consider this request for aid favourably on humanitarian and compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Government of Karnataka has reported that the State Government had taken prompt relief measures such as rescue and relief; payment of ex-gratia to the victims; restoration of damaged public property; and relocation of 8 badly affected villages in the wake of earthquake of September, 1993.

(b) No such survey has been reported;

(c) Government of Karnataka has prepared and submitted to Government of India, for seeking assistance from the World Bank, a Project proposal for relocation of 48 villages and construction of earthquake resistant houses at a cost of Rs. 93.541 crores.

(d) Government of Karnataka has been requested to make some modifications in the Project proposal. After these modifications are made, the proposal will be considered for posing to the World Bank for assistance.

Study on soil suitability for tobacco cultivation

3265. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct ICAR to conduct a special study on the soil suitability of upland areas of West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh for tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) how does Government propose to encourage tribal farmers to go for lucrative cash crops like tobacco; and

(e) whether any discussion has been held with the state Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) had conducted soil suitability studies and has indicated areas suitable for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in West Godavari district and Burley tobacco in the Agency area of East Godavari district.

(d) A high-yielding FCV variety CM-12 has been evolved and the crop production technology for its cultivation is being disseminated to the farmers, a majority of whom are tribals. CTRI has also established a sub station to serve the interests of tribal farmers of West Godavari district. A Burley Research Centre has been established in the tribal area of Jeddangi to help the tribal farmers in getting higher productivity and better quality of Burley tobacco. A high yielding exotic variety Benket—A1 has been introduced in the tribal area.

(e) In the production of Burely tobacco, Girijan Co-operative Corporation, Intensive Tribal Development Agency and the Department of Agriculture are co- operating with CTRI in the promotion of cultivation of tobacco.

Revamping of consultancy schemes by FAO

3266. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has revamped its consultancy scheme; and

(b) how far this move will lead to make FAO's programme of Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries (TCDC) useful to India and benefit it, particularly allowing the Indian scientists to put their knowledge and skills to wider use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) We have no information about revamping of the Consultancy Scheme by the FAO. However, with a view to promote individual and collective self-reliance and sharing of technical